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### DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR INDIANS

*Mr. René Tremblay, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, recently made the following announcement:*

Indian communities will be assisted in raising their living standards by means of an intensified community-development programme which will supplement present government assistance.

An investment of some \$3,500,000 over the next three years is proposed for this aspect of Indian development, which will be conducted by the Indian Affairs Branch on its own and in association with various provincial and other agencies.

#### AIM IS SELF-SUFFICIENCY

While this latest self-help programme of the Department will not solve every Indian problem, its success is expected to bring reserves closer to being self-sufficient communities and thus reduce the need for reliance on relief and other welfare assistance. This will depend in large measure on the participation of the Indians themselves in efforts to improve their level of living with as much reliance as possible on their own initiative. The programme makes provision for technical and other services which will help them to establish self-sufficiency.

There is a requirement for a large number of persons skilled in the field of community development to work on reserves and, as the programme develops, members of the Indian communities concerned will be engaged in developing local programmes.

In a number of cases, community-development workers will be engaged and directed by the Department. In other cases, with the approval of the Indian bands concerned, such workers will be supplied by arrangement with provincial governments.

Canada has a shortage of qualified workers in the field of community development, and it is hoped that university courses in this field soon will be established. Special courses now are being arranged for departmental staff engaged in this work to study the essential philosophy and techniques involved.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF RESERVES

It is recognized that reserves will continue to be the permanent homes of many Indians, even though an increasing number may choose to live in other communities. It will be necessary to pursue the community-development programme until more of the reserves are brought to a social and economic level comparable with neighbouring non-Indian communities.

Eventually, it is hoped, these reserves will be provided with the same provincial services as are available to other Canadians. The Department already has contractual agreements and informal arrangements with various provinces concerning a number of such services. The matter was discussed with the provincial premiers at a federal-provincial conference last fall and a ministerial conference on Indian affairs is planned for later this year.